

51249/RAG/Z74

CLAIMS

1. A method of determining the routing of interconnected regions of a routing problem by considering all required connections in parallel and only attempting to resolve conflicts when at least some relevant contextual information has
5 been assembled.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein resolving of conflicts is only attempted when all possible relevant contextual information has been assembled.
3. A method according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) defining, for each set of regions to be connected, routing which represents a suitable manner of connecting them, respecting only those conflicts which have been explicitly registered with the set currently being considered;
 - (b) collating all such proposed routing and resolving any conflicts in a symmetric manner;
 - 10 (c) registering such conflicts with the sets of regions which will be required to respect them on the next pass;
 - (d) repeating steps (a) to (c) until a sufficient completion and quality of routing solution is attained; and
 - (e) converting the routing into suitable geometric representations of routing
15 paths in a way which takes all desired routing into account symmetrically and simultaneously.
4. A method according to claim 3, in which the regions are polygons and the shared boundaries are edges.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the interconnected regions are regions
20 of an electrical circuit.